

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A clamping apparatus for an adjustable steering column for a vehicle, the clamping apparatus including at least two, relatively slidable plates that can be clamped relatively to one another, the two plates having relatively slidable, clamping surfaces that contact one another, the respective clamping surfaces of the two plates being made of material of different hardnesses.

2. (original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the plates is used in connection with reach adjustment of the steering column.

Claims 3-9 (cancelled)

10. (new) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the plates is used in connection with rake adjustment of the steering column.

11. (new) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein one of the plates is used in connection with rake adjustment of the steering column.

12. (new) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the plates is made of mild steel.

13. (new) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein one of the plates is made of mild steel.

14. (new) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein one of the plates is made of mild steel.

15. (new) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the plates is made of mild aluminum or aluminum alloy.

16. (new) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein one of the plates is made of mild aluminum or aluminum alloy.

17. (new) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein one of the plates is made of mild aluminum or aluminum alloy.

18. (new) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein one of the plates is made of mild aluminum or aluminum alloy.

19. (new) An adjustable steering column for a vehicle incorporating a clamping apparatus according to claim 1.

20. (new) An adjustable steering column for a vehicle incorporating a clamping apparatus according to claim 2.

21. (new) An adjustable steering column for a vehicle incorporating a clamping apparatus according to claim 10.

22. (new) An adjustable steering column for a vehicle incorporating a clamping apparatus according to claim 12.

23. (new) An adjustable steering column for a vehicle incorporating a clamping apparatus according to claim 15.

24. (new) An adjustable steering column according to claim 19, which is rake and/or reach adjustable.

25. (new) A vehicle incorporating an adjustable steering column according to claim 19.

26. (new) A vehicle incorporating an adjustable steering column according to claim 24.